

**An Exciting New Year for Carmel Valley  
Council President Scott Peters, First District  
For the Carmel Valley News, January 2008**

The new year holds a number of exciting developments for our region, including a presidential election and the election of a mayor and four new members of the City Council. Councilmembers Toni Atkins, Brian Maienschein, Jim Madaffer and I are near the end of our two terms in office. This year will be a bittersweet one for us, as we reflect on the progress we've made citywide and in our own districts.

It has been an honor to serve the residents of Carmel Valley at such an historic time in the life of this community. Much progress has been made during these past seven years, and I am proud to have worked with so many of you to complete State Route 56, build a police station on El Camino Real and open several neighborhood parks. More work remains as some of our new neighborhoods continue to grow and develop. Several significant projects are slated for 2008, including major new community facilities and parks.

I am most excited about next month's opening of Fire Station 47 in Pacific Highlands Ranch. If you have driven through that part of the neighborhood, you'll notice that the station seems somewhat far away from the rest of the community. I see that as a sign that the City has made neighborhood infrastructure a top priority, building necessary community facilities *before* a community is built out, rather than scrambling to acquire land when services are already overtaxed. The new fire station will improve response times in Carmel Valley, Torrey Pines, Torrey Hills and Black Mountain Ranch. I'll share more information about this exciting project next month.

Another project in the works for this year is the creation of a skate facility next to the Northwest Police substation on El Camino Real. Work began on the project in 2005, and was based on the success of the Rancho Peñasquitos skate park and a desire by Carmel Valley residents to build something similar in their community. The Carmel Valley Community Planning Group and the City have worked with impressive speed to complete the design and approval process. We expect to break ground this spring, with an anticipated opening of late summer.

The City will complete several other park projects this year, including the multi-use fields at Carmel Valley Community Park South, next to East Ocean Air Elementary School. We expect the fields to be open in time for the beginning of the new school year. I commend Mayor Jerry Sanders and his staff for expediting the permitting and bidding process to speed completion of this important project.

I hope to make progress this year in developing the lot in Torrey Hills originally planned for a YMCA. At least one organization has approached the Torrey Hills Planning Board about using the site. My goal is to enter into an agreement this year with an organization who can provide a recreation facility for this community.

A number of road projects are slated for 2008, including the repaving of Ashley Falls Drive, Carmel Country Road, Carmel Knolls Drive, among others, and an asphalt overlay for parts of Portofino Drive. New medians are scheduled for Del Mar Heights Road west of Interstate 5. Sadly, they will be simply concrete and not landscaped, due to the near failure of the proposed Maintenance Assessment District. Wider medians are one of several traffic calming measures scheduled for Del Mar Heights Road in 2008. City engineers will also work to reduce excessive speed between Interstate 5 and Camino del Mar.

Several projects underway will enhance and restore the environment of the Carmel Valley region. Work continues on the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project, forming new land masses and other habitats for birds along the Pacific Flyway. The three-year project should be complete by the end of 2009. We will also complete work on equestrian, bike and pedestrian trail connections west of Interstate 5 along Carmel Valley Road, as part of the Trans County Trail project.

I look forward to the completion of these exciting projects and wrapping up a productive and rewarding term as your Councilmember.